TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In The Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia
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Calvin H. Robinson — — Editor and Publisher

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Virginia Press Association Member

EDITORIALS

VIRGINIA UNCOVERS HISTORY IGNORANCE

The heading quoted above was over a news story in last Sunday's New York Times. An the article started off by declaring, "Virginia, mother of Presidents, is proud of her history, but not of the way history is taught in her schools, a legislative commission indicated."

It seems that a legislative committee has made a study and sent to the Governor a report which outlines the results of a test on Virginia history and government given to 1344 college freshmen in nine colleges in the state. The commission said it uncovered deplorable ignorance.

It said:

"Only 10.2 per cent of the freshmen identified George Mason correctly as author of the Virginia Bill of Rights; only 12 per cent credited Richard Henry Lee with having proposed independence for the Colonies; 4.5 per cent identified Claude Swanson, former secretary of the Navy; 52 per cent knew Meriwether Lewis for his Northwest explorations, but only 7 per cent recognized his partner and fellow Virginian, George Rogers Clark."

And, it continued:

"Only 1.2 per cent could name all eight of the Virginia-born Presidents; 8 per cent knew the causes of Bacon's Rebellion; 15 per cent could name five battles of the War Between the States, while 15 per cent could name only one, or none at all."

The study commission said that 902 students taking the test were trained in Virginia schools, and it was emphasized that the students answering the questionnaire were almost without exception from the upper half of their graduating class.

It is only guess work what would have happened had the test been given to include the lower halves of high school graduating classes, or to those who dropped out of high school without graduating.

The report stated that students seem to have practically no conception of the relationships between local, state and federal government.

But the most valid criticism of school courses was this: undue emphasis seems to be placed on social and cultural studies and political and governmental study are virtually ignored. Virtually nothing is taught of Virginia history made in the past eighty years - since Appomattox.

Another serious charge is that there is a shortage of adequate history textbooks, and that teachers are attempting to teach history in high schools without having had a college major in that subject.

We trust that the next session of the General Assembly will do something to correct this deplorable situation. American history and Virginia history should be major subject matter in our high schools, and taught by college degree holders who majored in what they are teaching.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

DOGWOOD-RED

From The New York Times

It's an open question whether the flowering dogwood tree is more beautiful in spring than in fall. In full bloom, when May is young, it will take your breath away with its spectacular display in the pristine woods. It looks as though it were covered with a swarm of white butterflies fresh from the cocoon. A hillside of dogwood in full bloom is something to see and long to remember.

But when summer is past and frost approaches, the same dogwood trees put on another show worth going far to see. First the berries turn color. Where each blossom has been is a cluster of oval fruits that have fattened through the hot weeks and now turn, first a light orange, then a brilliant lacquer-red. They are brighter than holly berries, and against the rich green of the unturned leaves they seem doubly red. Then it is that squirrels hold holiday, chattering in the dogwoods as they feast on ivory-coated seeds within the red berries.

Then color comes to the leaves, dogwood-red, which is like no other color in the woods. It creeps up the trees like a flame, capricious in its progress; one dogwood in a cluster will turn red overnight, while one next to it stands green for another week. One will turn pink. One will show an orange tint. But in time all achieve the deep crimson that is warmer than sumac-red and more glowing that the red of the wild cherry.

Dogwood-red gleams in the woodlands now, both the lacquer red of the berry and the deep red of the leaf. If you know the color, you can't miss it, any more than you can miss the white beauty of dogwood at blossom time. And once known, it will never be forgotten.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

ABOUT 1952

From Winchester Star

Although 1952 and the presidential nominating conventions are almost three years hence, several factors seem apparent. On the Democratic side, Harry S. Truman dominates the Party and is the most probable nominee. His renomination could be depended upon to deepen the wounds the Party has suffered in recent years. Aside from Mr. Truman, none looms as a potential nominee. Chief Justice Vinson could come nearest to healing the party's wounds. The Republican Party, too, is short on Presidential timber. It is possible that the 1952 Republican Presidential nominee will be determined by the 1950 Senatorial election in Ohio. If Senator Taft wins his re-election fight by a good majority, he seems the likely Republican Presidential nominee; if he loses in Ohio he is out of the picture as a presidential aspirant. It seems unlikely that the Republicans would turn again to Governor Dewey, who has failed twice to sell himself to the American voter and who has proved himself a sort of New Dealer in Republican clothing. It is not at all improbable that in the event Senator Taft should lose in Ohio that General Eisenhower would go into the Republican nominating convention the odds-on favorite. But all such 1952 presidential speculation begins and ends with the Ohio Senatorial election.

Atomic explosion by the Russians spurs defense program here.

Rival party heads in Britain disagree over devaluation.

Chile accuses Reds of threat to peace in Yugoslovakia.

Vatican urges outlawing of the atom bomb.

Egypt held to be veering from other Arab states.

Try a Classified Ad.

Chicago U. prints a new type history.

A good investment, U. S. Savings Bonds.

Read it first in your home county newspaper.

Lynchburg Cardinals won final Piedmont League play-off from the Portsmouth Cubs.

Steve Bilko called up to finish schedule with St. Louis Cardinals.

Duke to play Tennessee this Saturday.

Bevin challenges Soviet to lift veil on A-bomb.

United States faces 1949's worst labor crisis.

Truman signs trade pact extension bill.

Russians reported to be making rockets with 5,000 mile range.

Hungary orders 10 Yugoslav officials to leave country.

Maryland grand jury indicts Arms in Chesapeake Bay slaying.

Virginia to sell bonds to finance ferry acquisition.

Big Steel agrees to extend truce for a week, at President's request.

Communists set up a "row of the people" in China.

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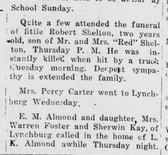

Rocks News

Rocks, Sept. 26.- Sowing wheat time is just around the corner.

L. K. Almond, who was quite sick last week was able to be at Sunday School Sunday.

Quite a few attended the funeral of little Robert Shelton, two years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. "Red" Shelton, Thursday P. M. He was instantly killed when hit by a truck Tuesday morning. Deepest sympathy is extended the family.

Mrs. Percy Carter went to Lynchburg Wednesday.

E. M. Almond and daughter, Mrs. Warren Foster and Sherwin Kay, of Lynchburg called in the home of L. K. Almond awhile Thursday night.

Mrs. Royal Seay and daughter, Brenda were visiting Mrs. James Taylor one day last week.

Miss Dorothy Perdieu, of Appomattox spent last week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ranson.

Louise Ranson was burned by hot grease Thursday afternoon. She was rushed to the doctor at Appomattox.

A few attended the Five-County Fair in Farmville last week.

Friends are glad to see Daniel Hamilton out again, after an appendicitis operation.

Donald Roach, of Waynesboro, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roach.

Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Payne, of Williamsburg spent the week- end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Elder.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dickerson and children were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Richardson, of Pamplin Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Toby Inge and daughter, Aubrey Dale were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Inge and daughter, of Farmville.

A few from Rocks attended the baptizing at Church, Appomattox Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Turby and daughter, of Charleston, W. Va., spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ranson.

Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor and children spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Roach.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Frank Ranson and children spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ranson.

Miss Annie C. Martin were visiting Miss Gwendolyn Paulette one Sunday recently.

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Appomattox, Virginia

Richwood

Richwood, Sept. 27.- Divine services will be held at Central Baptist Church Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Snow and family spent the week-end in Roanoke.

Mrs. D. A. Pugh and Mrs. Henry Fleshman were the guests Friday afternoon of Mrs. S. C. Fleshman.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blackwell visited with Mr. and Mrs Jack Wilbun Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Woodall were the guests Sunday afternoon of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh.

Mrs. W. I. Watt visited with Mrs. Jacob Lewis Friday.

U. T. Wooldridge and daughter, Marvis were the guests Saturday afternoon of Miss Estelle Wooldridge.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blackwell, Jr. were the guests Monday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wilbun and Mr. Willie Fleshman.

Mrs. Paul May was in Lynchburg Monday to see Mrs. Clarence May, who is in a Lynchburg hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter Pankey were in Lynchburg on business Saturday.

Mrs. S. C. Fleshman and son, Harpson visited with Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hunter, of Marion, Va. were the over-night guests Monday of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hunter.

William and Mary will be host to V. P. I. in football tilt at Williamsburg this Saturday.

Truman raps at critics of his fair deal program.

Weatherman reports the coolest September since 1928.

U. S. seeking atom power for its military aircraft.

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Hixburg

Hixburg, Sept. 27.- The October meeting of the Home Demonstration Club will be held at the home of Mrs. E. P. Sears.

Mrs. W. B. Ford spent the past week with her sister, Mrs. E. P. Sears. Guests in this home for the week-end were Mrs. Michael (Margaret Sears) and children and Miss Sara Sears, of High Point, N. C., and Miss Gertrude Sears, of Richmond. Callers there Sunday P. M. were Harwood Hix, Mrs. C. B. Carson and daughter and Mrs. B. G. Grinstead.

Harwood Hix, of Greensboro, N. C., spent the week-end with his home folks.

C. B. Carson and John spent Sunday P. M. in Lynchburg.

Mrs. C. B. Carson and daughter spent the week-end at "Walnut Shade."

Fresh Nationalist troops march to defense of Kukong.

Subscription rate: $1.50 a year, payable in advance.

Wingless Chickens Cause Speculation

Impact on Industry Studied by Growers

Poultrymen and consumers throughout the United States are still speculating on the degree impact on the poultry industry of the development of wingless chickens.

Peter Baumann, Des Moines, Iowa, a veterinary-supply salesman, has raised a flock of 400 such chickens and has proclaimed loudly that they are the "nearest thing" alive to famed cartoonist Al Capp's "shmoos."

Baumann said he had spent 10 years developing the wingless flock, and that he expects the breed to set a new trend in chicken raising. He pointed out that the wingless chicken has a thick layer of white meat where ordinary chickens have wings.

Baumann said he had kept his chicken breed a secret because he wanted to be sure it was a success. He studied animal husbandry at Iowa State college and asserts his wingless chickens are not a "freak." A freak does not reproduce, he argued.

For those who dislike chicken wings, Peter H. Baumann, of Des Moines, Iowa, has come up with wingless chickens. He is shown here comparing the wingless chicken (right) with an ordinary chicken (left).

The ancestors of this new breed of chicken, Baumann said, came from Texas. He was traveling through that state in the 30's when he acquired a light Brahma rooster and a white Minorca hen. Each bird had only stubs for wings.

He bred them, he said, and was astounded when the hen hatched wingless chickens. He then began experimenting and breeding.

Baumann reported that at first he got only three or four wingless birds out of 100 eggs. Now, he said, about 95 of every 100 chicks have no wings at all. Some of the others, he said, have stubs or a stub on one side and a wing on the other.

Postal pay bill is passed by House of Representatives.

Police on guard as non-union pits resume operation.

Speeds Harvest

With another multi-million bushel corn harvest expected this fall, America's farmers are turning more and more to machinery to prepare the crop for use.

One improved machine (shown above) made by the New Holland machine company shells up to three and one-third bushels of corn each minute. This machine takes in ears of corn and seconds later ejects cobs in one direction and cleaned shelled corn in another. The shelled corn is either bagged or elevated into a wagon automatically.

Halifax trustees listen to discrimination charges.

Play safe—drive carefully.

Dark tobacco markets to open on November 28.

Eighteen found guilty of gambling after Lynchburg raid.

Three railroads report a drop in net income.

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